

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/08072

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :B01D 29/46

US CL :210/488, 497.01, 498; 209/393, 395; 162/251; 29/896.62

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 210/488, 497.01, 498; 209/393, 395; 162/251; 29/896.62

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| A | US 5,387,340 A (ACKERMAN) 07 February 1995, col. 3, line 49 to col. 6, line 55. | 1-11 |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Special categories of cited documents | *T* | later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention |
| *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance | *X* | document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone |
| *E* earlier document published on or after the international filing date | *Y* | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | *&* | document member of the same patent family |
| *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means | | |
| *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | | |

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 JULY 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

27 JUL 1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

MATTHEW O. SAVAGE

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference NONE | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT US99 08072 | International filing date (day/month/year) 13 APRIL 1999 | Priority date (day/month/year) NONE |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): B01D 29/46 and US CL: 210/488, 497.01, 498; 209/393, 395; 162/251; 29 896.62 | | |
| Applicant MATTHEW, JOHN B. | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|--|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 01 NOVEMBER 2000 | Date of completion of this report 20 APRIL 2001 |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 | Authorized officer MATTHEW O. SAVAGE Jean Proctor Paralegal Specialist |
| Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230 | Telephone No. (703) 308-0661 |

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages 1-7, as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages 8-10, as originally filed

pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages 1-4, as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE, as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims 1-11 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |
| Inventive Step (IS) | Claims 1-11 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |
| Industrial Applicability (IA) | Claims 1-11 | YES |
| | Claims NONE | NO |

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-11 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest:

the limitation of the interconnecting surfaces of the strips and spacers being metallurgically bonded as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11;

the limitation of the slot length to spacer length being in a range of 2- 10:1 as recited in independent claim 9;

the limitation of the slots having a length of 3" or less and the slots forming at least 15% of the screen as recited in instant independent claim 10.

Claims 1-11 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4) for the reasons as follows:

claims 1-3, and 6-11 have an industrial use for filtering pulp;

claims 4 and 5 have an industrial use for making a screen plate.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

NONE

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To: PATRICK J. WALSH
400 MAIN STREET
STAMFORD CT 06901

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing
(day/month/year)

14 MAY 2001

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference NONE | IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION | |
| International application No. PCT/US99/08072 | International filing date (day/month/year) 13 APRIL 1999 | Priority Date (day/month/year) NONE |
| <p>Applicant MATTHEW, JOHN B.</p> | | |

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D C 20231 | Authorized officer MATTHEW O. SAVAGE |  Jean Proctor Paralegal Specialist |
| Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230 | Telephone No. (703) 308-0661 | |

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
in its capacity as elected Office

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Date of mailing (day/month/year) 02 May 2001 (02.05.01) | |
| International application No. PCT/US99/08072 | Applicant's or agent's file reference |
| International filing date (day/month/year) 13 April 1999 (13.04.99) | Priority date (day/month/year) |
| Applicant MATTHEW, John, B. et al | |

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

01 November 2000 (01.11.00)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

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|---|--|
| The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35 | Authorized officer R. Forax Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38 |
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